



HOW BIG ARE THE BEANS NOW?

Materials you need:

- Clear plastic drink cups or recycled jars (enough for each child)
- Broad beans or purple king beans (soaked in water overnight - 1 for each child)
- Tissue paper sheets, coffee filters or blotting paper (enough for each plastic cup/child)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)
- Spray bottles with a little water

Setup for play:

- Look at the soaked beans with the children and take a moment to compare them with seeds that haven't been soaked – what differences can they see?
- Help children peel off the outer coating from one or two seeds and prise apart to look closely at the tiny plant inside. If you have a magnifying glass this makes it even more interesting!
- Cut the tissue paper or coffee filter down to a rectangle size that will fit inside the plastic cups. Show the children how to add the paper so it lines their cup.
- Encourage the children to choose a seed and push it down between the paper and inside wall of the cup. Pull out the spray bottles to spritz and moisten the beans.
- Keep the bean cups together where they get a little sun and then look together each day at any changes that are taking place. What does the root do? What is happening to the leaves?
- Older children will enjoy keeping visual records of the growth using photos or drawings.
- As the bean grows too big for the cup, plant it out in the garden (or take home to plant).

EXPLORING OUR WORLD - ACTIVITY GUIDE 2

What are they learning with this activity?

As the children investigate, plant and look after their seeds as they grow they are learning to:

- Explore, infer, predict and problem solve
- Understand lifecycles and how food gets to our plates
- Broaden their understanding of the world
- Make predictions and generalisations about aspects of the natural world around them
- Use their senses to explore the natural environment
- Use descriptive language
- Explore simple scientific concepts through play and observation
- Engage with technology for fun and to communicate learning
- Respect and care for natural living things
- Understand the interdependence between land, plants and people.
- Persevere and experience the satisfaction of a job done well and sense of achievement.

Extending the play:

- Collect the photos and drawings and work with the children to set up a display for families to view.
- Set up a garden centre dramatic play area outside and add seeds to plant into old seedling containers to take home.

